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Submitted photo

'IT'S INDESCRIBABLY BEAUTIFUL': The dad in "A Christmas Story" reacts to his major award.

'A Christmas Story' wins major award

Readers use Twitter, Facebook to tell favorites.

By Rob Burgess

Tribune night editor

The month of December is rife with entertainments directed squarely on the holiday season. So, we asked our readers to tell us via Twitter and Facebook what their favorite sights and sounds of the season were.

Using our Little Orphan Annie's secret decoder ring, we tallied the ballots

and with 21.25 percent of the vote, the major award for Best Christmas Movie goes to none other than the 1983 classic "A Christmas Story." The film is narrated by and is based on the stories of native Hoosier and legendary raconteur Jean Shepard. In fact, the story is set in a fictional Indiana city called "Hohman," which was regularly used in his work as a stand-in for Shepard's hometown of Hammond.

Also garnering several votes were: "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989) with 16.25 percent, "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946) with 13.75 percent, "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947) with 6.25 percent, "Elf" (2003) with 5 percent, "White Christmas" (1954) with 3.75 percent, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" (1966) with 3.75 percent, "Die Hard" (1988) with 3.75 percent, "Home Alone" (1990) with 2.75 percent and "One Magic Christmas" (1985) with 2.75 percent.

Other films which received only a single vote included: "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" (1974), "Snowglobe" (2007), "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" (1983), "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" (1964), "One Special Night" (1999), "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" (1984), "Holiday Inn" (1942), "Mister Magoo's Christmas Carol" (1962), "The Bishop's Wife" (1947), "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York" (1992), "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (1993), "Roots" (1977), "Lethal Weapon" (1987), "Scrooged" (1988), "Santa Claus" (1985), "Bad Santa" (2003),

“Gremlins” (1984) and “A Charlie Brown Christmas” (1965).

We also asked readers to give us a rundown of their top five favorite holiday songs.

Some, like Mark Gotschall, took the word “holiday” literally and said, “how about ‘The Star Spangled Banner’?”

Others, like Vito Hicks, rejected the concept altogether answering, “[none] of them. I hate Christmas and all of the ‘holiday season.’”

Meanwhile, Megan Marschand Pierceall told us “the only one I like is my daughter’s rendition of ‘Jingle Bells’ when she was 1: ‘Bingo balls, bingo balls, bingo all the way...’”

For Mark Hudson, though, the question didn’t require five entries.

“Bob Seger’s ‘Little Drummer Boy,’” he said. “End of discussion.”

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Your Picks for Top Five Holiday Songs

We used Facebook and Twitter to ask you for your top five favorite holiday songs. The following is a selected assortment of your yuletide soundtracks:

ROBERT FERNUNG:

"Thank God It's Christmas" by Queen (1984)

"The Season's Upon Us" by Dropkick Murphys (2012)

"The Snow Miser Song" and "The Heat Miser Song" from the movie "The Year Without a Santa Claus" (1974)

"The Chanukah Song" by Adam Sandler (1994)

"Mistress for Christmas" by AC/DC (1990)

DONNA LAWSON:

"White Christmas" by Irving Berlin (1942)

"Jingle Bells" by James Lord Pierpont (1857)

"The Holly and Ivy" by Traditional

"Do You Hear What I Hear?" by Noël Regney and Gloria Shayne (1962)

"Up on the House Top" by Benjamin Hanby (1864)

ANGELA COBLE:

"Carol of the Bells" by Traditional, performed by Trans-Siberian Orchestra (1995)

"Born in Bethlehem" by Third Day (2011)

"O Holy Night" by Adolphe Adam and Placide Cappeau (1847)

"Angels We Have Heard on High" by Traditional, performed by Josh Groban (2007)

"Mary, Did You Know?" by Mark Lowery and Buddy Greene, performed by Kutless (2008)

CORNELIA NELI:

"Es ist ein Ros entsprungen" ("A rose has sprung up") by Traditional

"Leise rieselt der Schnee" ("Snows falls softly at night") by Traditional

"Kling, Glöckchen" ("Ring, Little Bell") by Traditional

"O Tannenbaum ("O Fir Tree") by Traditional

"Ihr Kinderlein, kommet" ("Oh, come, little children") by Traditional

BONNIE BOUSUM PATMORE:

"A Baby Changes Everything" by Craig Wiseman and Tim Nichols,
performed by Faith Hill (2003)

"How Many Kings" by Downhere (2009)

"Carol of the Bells" by Traditional, performed by Straight No Chaser (2008)

"The Christmas Song" by Mel Tormé and Bob Wells, performed by Johnny
Mathis (1958)

"White Christmas" by Irving Berlin, performed by Bing Crosby (1942)

JEANNETTE BLEVENS:

"Thistlehair the Christmas Bear" by Donny Lowery, performed by Alabama
(1982)

"Hard Candy Christmas" by Carol Hall, performed by Dolly Parton (1982)

"Little Drummer Boy" by Katherine Kennicott Davis (1941)

"Frosty the Snowman" by Walter "Jack" Rollins and Steve Nelson (1950)

"Jingle Bells" by James Lord Pierpont (1857)

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